

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a diabetic subject of Chinese descent suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from a nephropathy, the method comprising the step of: determining whether a sample from the subject has at least one polymorphic sequence selected from the group consisting of an I/D genotype of an ACE gene, an M235T genotype of an AGT gene, a (z-2) genotype of an ALR2 gene 5'-(CA) repeats, an C106T genotype of an ALR2 gene in the promoter region, a G-308A genotype of a TNF- α gene, and a complement thereof,

wherein the presence of the polymorphic sequence indicates that the subject is suffering from, or at risk for suffering from the nephropathy, provided that the ALR2 gene cannot be used alone for the determination.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the sample is blood.

4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, which further comprises comprising the step of amplifying ~~the~~ a gene selected from the group consisting of ACE, AGT, ALR2 ~~or and~~ by PCR.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~primers used for the~~ amplifying ~~are~~ step is performed with primers having SEQ ID NO. 1 and SEQ ID NO. 2 for the ACE gene; SEQ ID NO. 3 and SEQ ID NO. 4 for the AGT gene; SEQ ID NO. 5 and SEQ ID NO. 6 for the TNF- α gene; and SEQ ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 8 or SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10 for the ALR2 gene.

6. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 3, wherein the subject is suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from Type 2 diabetes.

7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein the I/D genotype comprises a DD genotype.

8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim 1 to 7~~ claim 3, wherein the G-308A genotype comprises a GG genotype.

9. (Original) An array for detecting a subject of Chinese descent suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from a nephropathy, comprising at least one polymorphic sequence selected from the group consisting of: an I/D genotype of an ACE gene, an M235T genotype of an AGT gene, a (z-2) genotype of an ALR2 gene 5'-(CA) repeats, an C106T genotype of an ALR2 gene in the promoter region, a G-308A genotype of a TNF- α gene, and a complement thereof.

10. (Currently amended) The array of claim 9, wherein the ~~subject is suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from nephropathy is~~ Type 2 diabetes.

11. (Currently amended) The array of ~~any of claims 9 to 10~~ claim 10, wherein the I/D genotype comprises a DD genotype.

12. (Currently amended) The array of ~~any of claim 9 to 10~~ claim 10, wherein the G-308A genotype comprises a GG genotype.

13. (Original) A kit for detecting a subject of Chinese diabetic suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from a nephropathy, comprising:

an array comprising at least one polymorphic sequence selected from the group consisting of: an I/D genotype of an ACE gene, an M235T genotype of an AGT gene, a (z-2) genotype of an ALR2 gene 5'-(CA) repeats, a C106T genotype of an ALR2 gene in the promoter region, a G-308A genotype of a TNF- α gene, and a complement thereof; and

an instructional material teaching how to determine whether the subject is suffering from, or at risk for developing the nephropathy.

14. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 13, wherein the ~~subject is suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from nephropathy is~~ Type 2 diabetes.

15. (Currently amended) The kit of any of ~~claims 13 to 15~~ claim 13, wherein the I/D genotype comprises a DD genotype.

16. (Currently amended) The kit of any of ~~claim 13 to 15~~ claim 13, wherein the G-308A genotype comprises a GG genotype.

17. (Original) A kit for detecting a subject of Chinese diabetic suffering from, at risk for developing, or suspected of suffering from a nephropathy comprising:

primers for amplifying the gene ACE, AGT, ALR2 or TNF- α ; and
an instructional material teaching how to determine whether the subject is suffering from, or at risk for developing the nephropathy.

18. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 17, wherein the primers ~~used for amplifying~~ are SEQ ID NO. 1 and SEQ ID NO. 2 for the ACE gene; SEQ ID NO. 3 and SEQ ID NO. 4 for the AGT gene; SEQ ID NO. 5 and SEQ ID NO. 6 for the TNF- α gene; SEQ ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 8 or SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10 for the ALR2 gene.